

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Complaint to Fritz Lange

- a. On 18 January 1953, Prof. Dr. Maxim Zetkin, Hauptabteilungsleiter, of the East German Ministry of Health, wrote to Fritz Lange of the Zentrale Kommission fuer Staatliche Kontrolle (ZZK). Copies of the letter were sent also to Heinrich Rau, deputy Minister President, Staatliche Plankommission, and to Dirk van Rickelen, Secretary of State, Staatssekretariat fuer Chemie, Steine und Erden.
- b. Professor Zetkin started his letter as follows: "In the past year, serum production in East Germany, with respect to quantity and quality of human sera, reached a pronounced nadir". Professor Zetkin continued that, because East German plants could not produce concentrated (4,000 and 6,000 x) diphtheria and tetanus sera, that East Germany had been obliged to import these from the West. The professor attributed this trouble partly to the shortage of serum horses.
- c. In addition, an important cause of the trouble was that the nationalized Asid-Serumwerk VEB, Dessau, had been very slack, in spite of repeated ministerial complaints, in fulfilling its 1951 production plan. It had also objected to accepting any obligation to produce concentrated sera or vaccines in 1952. The reason for this appeared to lie in the mercenary outlook of the nationalized firm, which could not make so much profit from sera as from pharmaceutical products. All this was in marked contrast to the cooperative spirit and plan fulfilment of the private firm Saechisches Serumwerk AG (SSW), Dresden.
- d. Professor Zetkin concluded that the shortage of serum horses was to be remedied by importing 24 Hungarian horses. He asked the ZZK to take action against the Asid-Serumwerk VEB, Dessau.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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2. East Germany's production difficulties.

On 28 February 1952, the Health Inspection Section of the East German Ministry of Health prepared, for intra-ministerial use, and expose on the production of concentrated sera and vaccines in East Germany. The expose listed the following five reasons for the difficulties:

- a. Lack of serum horses - to be remedied by import from Hungary.
- b. Sera are concentrated and purified by electro-dialysis: in Europe, the State Serum Institute in Copenhagen has the apparatus for this. The SSW specialists understand the Copenhagen apparatus fully, but have none at their disposal. The trial apparatus that they did have - to remove peptolysed antitoxins with alumina (Tonerde) - was destroyed during the attack on Dresden. The apparatus cannot now be rebuilt, as it can only be built with V2A steel piping. In addition, the necessary alumina can be obtained only from a pit in the Rhineland.
- c. Although the SSW knows, in general, how to produce 4,000 and 6,000 x sera, some details of the process are protected by patents, which the Behring works have bought from the Americans: East Germany cannot circumvent this patent protection. Further, there certainly is not the necessary practical experience in East Germany as during and before World War II.
- d. Foreign, particularly American, literature on the purification of sera is lacking. As far as this literature is known through German translations, it mentions apparatus and nutritive media not available in East Germany.
- e. There is a great shortage of trained specialists in East Germany for serum production.

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Annex A

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East German 1952 serum and vaccine needs

1. Early in 1952, the East German Ministry of Health drew up the following table of East Germany's requirements for human sera and vaccines for 1952. The table is not based on strict medical considerations of requirements but is a ministerial statement of requirements which takes into account:

- a. Reserves at the beginning of 1952
- b. production capacities of East German plants
- c. money available for import.

Type	Amount & units	Proposed source
1. Botulinus serum	1,000 packages ¹	Saechsisches Serumwerk (SSW)
2. Tetanus serum	2,000 25 liter 25 liter (not planned at Asid)	SSW Asid Dessau (AD)
3. Tetanus serum from horses	1,000 x 180 liter	Asid Dessau (AD)
4. Tetanus serum from horses	800 x 780 liter	AD
5. Tetanus serum from heifers	300 x 24 liter	AD
6. Tetanus serum from rams	300 x 24 liter	AD
7. Tetanus vaccine	40 liters can be increased at any time	AD
8. Diphtheria serum	1000 to 2000 x 52 liter 100 liter	AD SSW
9. Diphtheria serum from horses	500 x 360 liter	AD
10. Diphtheria serum from rams	20 liter	AD
11. Diphtheria vaccine		
12. Scarlet fever serum	120 liter	SSW
13. Di-Tussis-Toxoid 2x	150 liter	Asid Weissensee (AW)
14. Di-scarlet fever vaccine		
15. Di-Tussia-Tetanus Toxoid	150 liter	AW
16. Spotted fever (Fleckfieber) vaccine	30 liter	Impfstoffwerk, Schöneweide (LS)
17. Cholera vaccine	No requirements, if needed can be produced from concentrate	
18. Rabies vaccine	50 liter	Requirement
19. Meningococcus serum		
20. Gas gangrene antitoxin	50 liter	SSW

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	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount & units</u>	<u>Proposed source</u>
21.	Poliomyelitis-convalescent serum	whenever possible	
22.	Measles convalescent serum	whenever possible	
23.	Test serum for determining blood groups	whenever possible	
24.	Peritonitis serum	150 liter	Sachsisches Serumwerk (SSW)
25.	Anthrax serum	-	Asid Dessau (AD)
26.	Precipitating sera	1 liter	AD
27.	Influenza adsobate vaccine	150 liter	Impfstoffwerk Schoeneweide (IW)
28.	Tuberculine Dilution 3:1000	60 liter	AD
29.	Tuberculine salve	100 liter	AD
30.	Tussitropin forte		AD Asid Weissensee (AW)
31.	Kahn-Extract	60 liter	IS
32.	Sera for diagnostic purpose	5 liter	IS
33.	Smallpox serum	-	IS
34.	Typhus oral capsules	3,000,000 capsules	AW
35.	BCG vaccine	-	Jenapharm

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1. Comments: Previously, these are 100 cc. packages.

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